

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORT, ILO, PLAB, IT

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON EAST-WEST AND ETUC TRADE UNION MEETINGS

REF: ROME 1408; BRUSSELS 0620

1. RAFFAELE VANNI, UIL SECGEN, IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF TERMED

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EAST-WEST TRADE UNION MEETING CLEAR DIPLOMATIC TRIUMPH FOR SHELEPIN,

FULLY RECOGNIZED IN MOSCOW. VANNI NOW ATTACHES VERY LITTLE IMPORTANCE TO LACK OF PERMANENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE, NATURE OF SUBJECTS UNDER DISCUSSION, OR NUANCE IN FINAL DOCUMENT. FACT THAT DIALOGUE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN WESTERN AND EASTERN EUROPEAN UNIONS IS THE IMPORTANT POINT, ONE WHICH MAKES INCREASINGLY NECESSARY, ACCORDING TO VANNI, AN AFL-CIO EUROPEAN PRESENCE AS A COUNTERWEIGHT. ALTHOUGH VANNI DID NOT SEEM TO ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO CONCEPT OF USING ILO AS UMBRELLA FOR FUTURE EAST-WEST EXCHANGES, HE DID STATE THAT ILO FRAMEWORK WOULD HELP LIMIT MEETINGS.

2. ON THE ETUC VANNI FELT THAT THE ENTRY OF EO/WCL UNIONS MIGHT BE HINDERED BY THE DECISION TO BAR WCL ITSELF FROM OFFICIAL STATUS IN ETUC. THE VOTE AGAINST CGIL/CGT ENTRY WAS A RED HERRING, ACCORDING TO VANNI, SINCE THE CGIL HAD PRESENTED NO APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP AND THE PROPOSAL WAS MERELY A PLOY OF FGTB LEADER DEBUNNE RELATING TO BELGIAN INTERNAL LABOR SITUATION. THE IMPORTANT FACT, SAID VANNI, WAS THE DECISION TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION WITH THE CGIL WHICH ONLY THE FRENCH FO ADAMENTLY OPPOSED. THE CGIL APPEARS QUITE WILLING TO BIDE ITS TIME AS THE ORIGINAL ICFTU CHARACTER OF THE ETUC ERODES.

3. GOI PERM REP TO ILO, ROBERTO AGO ALSO GAVE TO EMBASSY HIS VIEWS ON EAST-WEST CONFERENCE, POINTING OUT THAT CISL LEADER STORTI WAS ONLY

WESTERN EUROPEAN LEADER AT ALL CIRCUMSPECT IN DEALING WITH RUSSIANS AND WARY OF THEIR CHARM. BRITISH AND GERMANS ESPECIALLY SEEM ENTRANCED BY RUSSIANS ACCORDING TO AGO. IN AGO'S OPINION, THE EAST-WEST TRADE UNION TALKS ARE BOUND TO CONTINUE. ALTHOUGH SPONSORING SUCH MEETINGS WAS NOT THE BUSINESS OF THE ILO, AGO FELT THAT GENERAL ILO UMBRELLA FOR MEETINGS MIGHT PROVIDE SUBTLE MEANS OF LIMITING THEM. VOLPE

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